



## Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith

February 18, 1964 - August 9, 2015

Celebrating The Life And Legacy Of Rolando Lamar Smith:

Rolando L. Smith, affectionately known as Roni, began his time on earth on February 18, 1964 in Detroit, Michigan. Rolando was the fifth child of ten children born into the Smith family. Early on Rolando knew the importance of family and assumed the responsibility of being Son, Brother, Uncle, Friend, Leader, Mentor and Nurturer.

Rolando graduated from Cooley High School in 1982. He attended Baker College where he maintained Dean's list status throughout his academic career.

Roni started working at the early age of 15 and developed an exemplary work ethic and displayed strong character. In 1987, he was hired in at the Mazda Corporation where he worked as a supervisor. In 1998, he transitioned to the United States Postal Service where he worked as a contingent. Along his mail route, one day Rolando found a large amount of undisclosed money lost by an armored truck. Without hesitation, Rolando secured and returned the money to the proper authorities. Because of this act of integrity, he was then offered full-time employment. Throughout his career, his acts of generosity, gregarious nature and magnetic personality endeared him to all.

Rolando joined Union Grace Missionary Baptist Church where he was later

baptized under the leadership of Dr. Reginald E. Smith on July 28, 2002. He became a faithful member who served on the Usher Board and performed with the Drama Ministry. He eventually accepted his calling and became leader of the Culinary Arts Ministry. He formed a fantastic culinary team and moved Union Grace from “Soul Food to Gourmet Meals.” His love for the elderly, led him to also become co-leader of the Senior Ministry. Rolando forged many friendships and will truly be missed by Union Grace.

Roni was passionate about life. He enjoyed traveling extensively, fast cars and entertaining friends and family. He had exquisite taste and impeccable style.

Roni was a true humanitarian who was extremely active in his community. In 1999, Roni launched a scholarship program in honor of his late brother known as the “Tee Project.” This project awarded students across metro Detroit with college scholarships. Roni also hosted the annual “Martin Luther King Day of Service for Seasoned Citizens.”

Roni was a visionary with many gifts and talents. One of his most notable gifts was Culinary Arts. He was known for his lavish fruit displays and flawless presentations. He was also a music enthusiast who loved to dance. Some of his most favorite artists included Janet Jackson, Annie Lennox, Richard Smallwood, CeCe Winans and he was an avid fan of the legendary Ms. Aretha Franklin.

Rolando fulfilled his purpose on August 9, 2015.

# Previous Events

## Family Hour

Saturday, Aug. **22**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Greater Grace Temple  
23500 W. 7 Mile Road  
Detroit, MI 48219  
(313) 543-6000

## Funeral Service

Saturday, Aug. **22**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Greater Grace Temple  
23500 W. 7 Mile Road  
Detroit, MI 48219  
(313) 543-6000

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Sandra Huckleberry*

**Sandra Huckleberry** - August 27, 2015 at 10:55 PM



“ *Patrick Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*



**Patrick Johnson** - August 27, 2015 at 04:06 PM



“ *I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIS LOVE FOR CARS. I HAVE SOLD HIM 2 BMW'S AND WE JUST SPOKE IN JUNE ABOUT HIM GETTING INTO HIS NEXT ONE. HE HAD SUCH GREAT TASTE AND LIKED THE FINER THINGS AND LOVED HIS MUSIC. I WILL MISS YOU MY FRIEND. GOD BLESS*



*SABRINA ROLLE  
ERHARD BMW  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI*

**SABRINA ROLLE** - August 24, 2015 at 02:40 PM

TF

“ *Roni , There will never be another . Will miss you my brother . The Williams Family*



**The Williams Family** - August 22, 2015 at 10:28 AM

JT

“ *Jennifer Travis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*



**Jennifer Travis** - August 21, 2015 at 09:43 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith.*



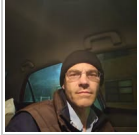
August 21, 2015 at 04:02 PM

LA

“ *Latrice lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*



**latrice** - August 20, 2015 at 10:24 AM



“ *Ron Billett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*



---

**Ron Billett** - August 19, 2015 at 08:33 PM



“ *Elizabeth Travis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*



---

**Elizabeth Travis** - August 19, 2015 at 06:29 PM



“ *Tracy Ward lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*



---

**Tracy Ward** - August 19, 2015 at 12:47 PM



*RIH Roni, you were a very sweet person!!!*

---

**Tracy Ward** - August 19, 2015 at 12:48 PM

JT

“ This is still hard to process. You will forever be in my heart. Thank you for loving my family. Thank you for being a father to Devin. Thank you for being you. Always loving people unconditionally. We will miss you. I will make sure Devin makes you proud. Your family will continually be in my prayers.  
Love you Roni.

Jennifer Travis - August 18, 2015 at 08:44 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith.



August 18, 2015 at 02:30 PM

CH

“ To the family of Rolando Smith. I would just like to say that I am praying for your strength during this very difficult time. Roni was a great person, he never changed as a person, we didn't see each other all the time but when we did. We always express love to one another. RIP boo !!! Love you Chandra Haliburton !

Chandra Haliburton - August 18, 2015 at 01:59 PM

TB

“ Hello my friend, you will forever be in my heart ??? Strathmoor 4life ??? May God comfort the Smith's family & give them the strength they need at this time.... May you R.I.P & Justice you did receive.... I love you & will miss you dearly ??? Gone Too Soon ???



Tiffany Bridges - August 18, 2015 at 01:11 PM

TB

*The ??? Was hearts not question marks SMH*

Tiffany Bridges - August 19, 2015 at 05:48 AM

JC

“ *Words will never explain how much you'll be missed you're forever in my heart I love you baby daddy*



jackie clark - August 18, 2015 at 12:07 PM

DJ

“ *May Rolando Smith Rest In Peace And God Bless His Family With Peace, Love, And Comfort During Their Time Of Grieving*

*Deborah Jackson*



Deborah Jackson - August 18, 2015 at 11:16 AM

SD

“ *Sierra Donaven lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*



Sierra Donaven - August 18, 2015 at 08:39 AM

SD

“ *Sierra Donaven lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*



-----  
**Sierra Donaven** - August 17, 2015 at 10:18 PM

ST

“ *Rolando is and was dear to me. He stayed upbeat and positive. His greetings were so uplifting. I send my prayers and condolences to family, friends and co-workers of the beloved!*



-----  
**Stacey** - August 17, 2015 at 09:57 PM

DO

“ *Dozier lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*



-----  
**Dozier** - August 16, 2015 at 04:22 PM

 Michell Hall

“ *Michell Hall lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*



-----  
**Michell Hall** - August 16, 2015 at 11:30 AM

VG

“ *Val Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*




Val Gardner - August 16, 2015 at 06:39 AM

SH

“ *Sheila lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith*



sheila - August 15, 2015 at 09:24 PM

  
Kimberly  
Odoneal

“ *I will miss his smile and how he made his family happy, rest in Heaven Roni, Kimberly*



Kimberly Odoneal - August 15, 2015 at 10:31 AM

CJ

“ *I will always remember Rolando as a kind and gentle person. Always available to help or be of service. His ministry to Union Grace in the form of culinary art was truly a gift from God! He will be missed!*  
*Deaconess Cheryl Jordan*



Cheryl Jordan - August 15, 2015 at 07:18 AM

EW

“ Offering the Smith family my heartfelt sympathy. Praying that GOD will continue to strengthen, comfort, and sustain you all during this special time. Weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Eric Wheeler - August 14, 2015 at 08:40 PM

EW

“ Eric Wheeler lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith



Eric Wheeler - August 14, 2015 at 07:49 PM

PG

“ Always loving you. GOD BLESS. Will miss you brother. Your loving nature will remain in our hearts... Your sis parie.....

parie gore - August 14, 2015 at 06:01 PM

PG

“ Parie Gore lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rolando Lamar Smith



parie gore - August 14, 2015 at 05:53 PM



I will miss you Roni rest in peace until we meet again

Sandra Stevenson - November 05, 2015 at 10:57 PM